Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS ROUTINE

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PARIS FOR GAMMON

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (GRAHAM, KATHARINE), RO

SUBJECT: POST PUBLISHER TO VISIT ROMANIA

- 1. WASHINGTON POST PUBLISHER KATHARINE
 GRAHAM PLANS TO VISIT BUCHAREST JULY7-9 AT INVITATION OF
 AMBASSADOR NICOLAE. SHE WILL BE TRAVELING WITH POST REPORTER JIM HOAGLAND AND A NEWSWEEK CORRESPONDENT. ACCORDING
 TO POST ASSISTANT FOREIGN EDITOR PHIL FOISIE, NICOLAE IS
 HANDLING ALL ARRANGEMENTS, WHICH MAY INCLUDE MEETING WITH
 CEAUSESCU.
- 2. MRS. GRAHAM IS NOW IN LONDON AND EXPECTS TO BE IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PARIS JULY 4-7, FROM WHERE SHE WILL DEPART FOR BUCHAREST.

3. UPON LEARNING OF MRS. GRAHAM'S TRIP, ROMANIAN DESK OFFICER OFFERED DEPARTMENT ASSISTANCE TO FOISIE, WHO EXPRESSED APPRECIATION BUT SAID THAT MRS. GRAHAM INTENDS TO RELY LARGELY ON ROMANIAN HOSTS. HE ADDED THAT IF EMBASSY BUCHAREST WISHES TO MAKE SUGGESTIONS, THESE COULD MOST

CONVENIENTLY BE PASSED TO MRS. GRAHAM THROUGH JIM HOAGLAND, WHO WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH DCM GAMMON IN PARIS.

4. FOR BUCHAREST: WE BELIEVE AMBASSADOR NICOLAE'S INVITATION, WHICH WAS EXTENDED JUNE 20 AND ACCEPTED BY MRS.

GRAHAM JUST BEFORE SHE LEFT FOR LONDON JUNE 21, WAS PROMP-TED LARGELY BE A DESIRE TO CORRECT "UNFAVORABLE" COVERAGE IN US PRESS OF WHICH ROMANIANS HAVE SO PERSISTENTLY COMP-LAINED OF LATE. WITH TWO CORRESPONDENTS IN TOW, MRS. GRAHAM IS APPARENTLY WILLING TO GRANT THEM SUCH AN OPPOR-TUNITY, PRETTY MUCH ON THEIR OWN TERMS. GIVEN HER APPAR-ENT DESIRE TO LET THEM RUN THIS SHOW AND OUR POSITION THAT THE PRESS IS DISTINCTLY SEPARATE FROM GOVERNMENT, WE ARE ALSO INCLINED TO AVOID GIVING IMPRESSION THAT STATE DEPARTMENT IS MANAGING VISIT, LETTING THE CHIPS FALL WHERE THEY MAY. YOU MAY WISH, HOWEVER, TO OFFER SOME SUGGES-TIONS ON ROMANIANS SHE MIGHT WISH TO SEE (E.G. BURTICA) OR PLACES TO VISIT DURING BRIEF STAY, AS WELL AS OFFERING THOUGHTS ON ADVISABILITY OF CONTACTS WITH "DISSIDENTS." IN SUM, WE SEE VIRTUE IN KEEPING OUR INVOLVEMENT LOW KEY AND THEREFORE ARE NOT RPT NOT ATTEMPTING TO CONFIRM AR-RANGEMENTS WITH NICOLAE.

5. FOR PARIS: WE WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE DCM GAMMON ARRANGING TO PASS ANY MESSAGE FROM BUCHAREST TO JIM LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HOAGLAND. CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

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